

# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

## September 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Stephanie Hoffman, Alicia Caiola, Therese Varela, Ted Oparnico, Ruth Garfield, Tina Naillon, Wendy Fitch, Kimberly Barnes, Robin Greenfield, Donna Farmer, Richard Henderson, Brandy Funk, Keith Allred, Amanda Pena, Brian Darcy,

### **SDE Welcome and Update:** (Donna Farmer, SEAP Chair)

- Introductions of past and new members
- Minutes from May 20, 2013 meeting. Stephanie Hoffman confirmed that the average stay for a child placed in a residential care facility is 90 days. Amanda Pena moves to accept the minutes and Ruth Garfield seconds the motion. Minutes were approved by the Panel.
- Panel reviews the Annual Report. Brian moves to suspend voting and approval until Rich Henderson arrives and there is further discussion on the motion.
- Rich Henderson indicates that the Panel needs to approve the Annual Report which is in the by-laws. If Panel doesn't approve then the by-laws need to be reviewed. Panel could make a move to accept with a note that there was concern about a lack of content and doesn't capture work that was done and accomplished by Panel.

### **State Department of Education (SDE) Update** – (Rich Henderson, SDE Special Education Director)

- There is a new Chief Superintendent, Roger Quarles – Nick Smith left the Department this past summer. The State Department has received a visit from the Inspector General's Office which is an arm of the Office of Management and Budget regarding virtual charter schools.
- The SDE wants to focus on supporting districts and help them support each other to meet the needs of all Idaho students – to be college and career ready.
- Rich has a new administrative assistant – Lily Mortensen
- Janelle Morgan, Regional Consultant in Region 2 has left and Kate Beisley has taken her place as
- SDE has started 3<sup>rd</sup> statewide center at ISU –school psychology and hired Stephanie Deltey
- The SDE will be setting new targets for the new state performance plan. Rich will address this issue at the November meeting
- Kimberly Barnes, who has taken Matt Hyde's position, described her job in family and community engagement. Her goal is to help districts partner with families and communities and have common goals regarding today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities –the



focus will be to help districts and bring resources to communities so they feel supported and active in the process.

- Brian Darcy asked Rich about results of the Governor's Educational Task Force and wondered how special education was represented. Rich said he has not read though recommendations but was aware there was no special education representation on the task force. He said that, in the view of the SDE, that "all students" does include students with disabilities and even though there was not a representative they are part of the conversation.
- Brian also asked a question about "Smarter Balance" which is the new state-wide accountability assessment. He had a concern about accommodations that are not available to some students (e.g., providing a reader to students in certain grades) in Smarter Balance. Rich said the new accountability assessment which will replace ISAT but called SBAC, will be piloted during the 2013-2014 school year. At the state level, nothing that SBAC does replaces what is found in IDEA. The student's team still governs what happens – in the classroom and ultimately on the assessment. In that case federal law rules. If the state provides a student with an accommodation that is not part of the Smarter Balance accommodations for this year, the student's report will not be included in the state-wide analysis. But, students will be included in state counts. On the national level – there will be a review by OSEP on the accommodations and finalize decisions will be made when the pilots are completed. OSEP recognizes concerns that could evolve into litigation. Rich is meeting with OSEP in two weeks in Atlanta so he is clear on expectations. Kimberly Barnes says SDE has developed power points on Idaho core standards and SBAC for teachers and also for parents. Both presentations are on the state website and she will send the link to the Panel.
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**OSEP Leadership Conference** (Rich Henderson, SDE Special Education Director, Donna Farmer, SEAP Chair)

- OSEP Leadership Conference, "Building Bridges and Fostering Innovative Leadership and Learning" was held on July 29-31 in Washington, D.C. The focus of the conference was on results driven accountability and how OSEP wants to support states to accomplish this goal. OSEP wants to increase stakeholder involvement
- Rich Henderson reviewed the conference content. Power Point will be sent to the Panel.
- SEAP needs to review the 18 indicators as they stand now. The first 16 do not change but it is the 17<sup>th</sup> that does change. All targets have to be reset. Rich will attend a meeting in Eugene to participate in Phase One Results Driven Accountability (RDA) planning.
- Review and recommendations need to be completed by January 2014.
- Rich reviewed what is currently happening around RDA, the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR)

**Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) Presentation** (Steve Smith and Susan Wagner)

- Steve Smith presented a power point about Parent Involvement, Indicator #8
- Susan Wagner reviewed Idaho Part B Parent Survey Results, scoring strategies, how to



improve response rate and potential revisions.

- Ms. Wagner distributed a handout on this year's Parent Survey Results. The Panel reviewed the results and discussed revisions and changes to the process for the future
- Discussion continued on the scoring survey – 23 questions are on the present survey
- Ms. Wagner asks if there are any questions from this year's survey that should be eliminated before she analyzes the data and submits the data to Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).
- The Panel makes a decision to keep the current data but make revisions in the future (e.g., deleting or revising questions or eliminating the "neutral" response category).
- Panel is asked to decide the cut score for this year and the OSEP report. Panel agrees on a 75% cut score to use for this year's report and in the future.
- Panel is asked to set an increased response target. The current target is 36%. The Panel (2013-14) will set a new target by November 2013.
- Discussion continued on Response Rates and increasing those rates. There are various ways that states distribute the surveys and various response rates from online, telephone interviews, hard mail, distribution at IEP meetings, and a combination of all of the methods.
- There was a question about surveying every district every years rather than a random sample every five years (e.g., 25 districts a year). Cost becomes a factor. Susan will look at the child count for each district and what it would cost to do every district in Idaho once a year.
- Wendy Fitch suggests doing the survey during parent conference time and give it to parents while they are waiting to talk to a teacher. The idea of doing a pilot is suggested and Wendy said that she would be happy to be a pilot site. Districts may be presented a choice on how they want to distribute the survey.
- Steve suggests that Idaho could send survey every other year versus every year. He also talks about how the data depends on the IEP meeting and when it is done-it will impact which year the data used – the previous or current year.
- Additionally, the child count may be impacted because a child was not on December 1 count if done in September which impacts analysis.
- Ruth Garfield suggests that "neutral" and "not applicable" should be on the agenda to discuss for the survey revisions and suggestions in November
- There was a suggestion for Ms. Wagner to send examples of different questions used by states. She will send them for review by the Panel. There was also a question about developing two surveys. One for younger students and one for older students. Susan says this would involve additional costs but there could be one survey - common questions for each parent and then questions that pertain to pre-school/elementary and another section pertaining to high school students.

#### **SDE Manual Review** (Rich Henderson, SDE Special Education Director)

- Rich discusses the SDE manual revisions which come from federal changes and updates
- A link will be posted on Idaho Training Clearinghouse and Panel members will use a password to access the portal and provide comments to SDE
- Panel will vote to approve changes in November meeting



- Page 55 – IEP Development and Implementation language has been updated
- Page 79 - Timeline language has been updated
- Page 80 - Areas to Assess – if a section has been highlighted then may take it out (talk at federal level to go from 16 to 14 years of age regarding transition in IDEA 2015-16)
- Page 88 - Adding Idaho Core Standards language not Idaho Common Core Standards – Idaho Content Standards still address other areas except math and language
- Page 94 - Learning Disability (highlighted) whole section has been removed
- Page 114 - Chapter 4 - Executive Function Deficit – Idaho may consider what disability category it might be placed in – two camps of thought – some say other health impairment (ADD/ADHD) or SLD category - specific learning disability - some say that is you have any types of the 4 then you have executive function deficit. Seeing numbers increased OHI (other health impaired).
- Page 123 – Chapter 5 went through most overall as did chapter 11.
- Chapter 5 has been rewritten for the most part and needs the most comments
- Chapter 4 – Rose’s Law – federal rule that changes the language of “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability” and gave states the option to use another term. Idaho uses the term “cognitive impairment” and intends to keep the term
- Page 160 and 164 – charter schools – language changed to be more direct in their responsibilities and obligations of services to students with disabilities.
- Portal should be open under SEAP Panel Working Documents –questions and comments should be written in an email and sent to Donna. She will gather the comments and send them to the Panel prior to November meeting.
- Next manual revision will probably occur in three years.

### **Goals and Priorities** (Donna Farmer, SEAP Chair)

- Donna reviewed the current committee membership. There are currently three committees - Research and Data, Policy and Legislative, and Communication and Outreach,
- Donna would like the Panel to make a decision on several target goals for the year so concrete recommendations can be given to the SDE in June
- Donna suggests Parent Survey and one or more of the Indicators (3,5,14 are priorities)
- Indicator 3 – Achievement, 5 is Environment, and 14 is Post Schools Outcomes
- A suggestion is made by Donna to focus on Parent Survey as the target goal for the year and wait until the Panel receives more information about Indicator 14 and 5 to make a decision on adding goals. Parent Survey decisions and recommendations need to be made by January meeting
- A discussion occurred about having committees at all at this point or keeping group as a whole committee
- A suggestion was made to work as a whole group but keep committees if they are needed in the future.



### **Next Meeting**

- The next SEAP meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2013 at the Hampton Inn
- The Panel will review the Annual report on dispute resolution, special education manual recommendations, get a Parent Survey update
- Rich recommended that Panel accepts the Annual Report – after further discussion there is no need for a vote on the Annual Report –
- The Report will be posted on the SEAP website
- Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

